

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia met in a Special Called Budget Meeting on Wednesday June 23, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference room in Suite 100 at the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Greg Dunn, Chairman  
Linda Wells, Vice Chair  
Herb Frady  
Peter Pfeifer  
A.G. VanLandingham

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris W. Cofty, County Administrator  
Carol Chandler, Executive Assistant  
Mark Pullium, Director of Finance  
Mary Holland, Assistant Director of Finance  
Tom Sawyer, Budget Officer  
Peggy Butler, Chief Deputy Clerk

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Chairman Dunn remarked that this was a special called meeting to discuss the County's Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 2005 - 2009.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Capital Improvement Program:**

Mark Pullium, Director of Finance, said he wanted to call to everyone's attention to the "Review of Projects". He pointed out that the FY2005-FY2009 Capital Improvement Program represented the best cost estimate of fifty-one projects totaling \$68,720,792. Thirty-three potential projects beyond the five year CIP totaled \$99,549,964.

Mr. Pullium said 911 Communications had a project that was in an out year for remodeling the 911 Center for a total of \$456,000. He said Elections had an additional purchase of 50 voting machines for a cost of \$140,191. He said Fire and Emergency Services had \$2,679,000 over the CIP period which included equipment and buildings, a replacement ambulance, sirens for the Severe Weather Early Warning Systems and an aerial platform apparatus. He said there were two potential projects in the out years that would encompass a headquarters for the administrative staff and a new training facility. He said there were also plans in the CIP period to construct Fire Station No. 12.

Commissioner Wells said the potential project of the Fire and Emergency Services administrative headquarters and training facility came up every year. She said this had never, ever been approved by this Board. She said every year when it was brought up they were told it was just a potential project. She said she would like to see this item removed because some day corporate knowledge would go away and this project would surface as something that was planned for years and it was not.

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Chairman Dunn said it had not moved up. It was still listed as a potential project beyond this plan.

Commissioner Wells said it should not even be there.

Commissioner Frady said it should not be listed in this book.

Commissioner Wells said she would like to take this potential project out once and for all. She said every year it had been addressed and every year it popped back up. She said this Board had not approved it.

Chairman Dunn said this project had been recorded as a request from a director as a potential future project. He said it was not in the CIP five year program.

Commissioner Wells said it was on the CIP records and when the existing Board members were not here in five years it would be gotten because it had been on the CIP as something that had been planned for since the CIP was conceived. She said she did not want it to be seen that this Board had put any kind of approval on this.

Chairman Dunn said he did not see it as a threat. He said they had a director that made a passion plea for it every year and the Board said no and put it out there as a potential future project. He said he thought it was irrelevant if they took it out.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he would like to think that future Board members would be as prudent about this as they had been.

Commissioner Wells said she did not want it in writing every year that it was being considered. She said if Jack wanted to bring it to the Board every year and ask to add it to the list and the Board could say no, that was fine. She said this being in the printed page each year was giving it an element of authority.

Mr. Pullium said if he understood Commissioner Wells correctly there were projects she saw that had been brought forward in the out year that were legitimate and needed to roll forward. Commissioner Wells said those had been approved and put on the list to roll forward in the out years. She said they had never approved the one she was talking about.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to remove the two potential projects under Fire and Emergency Services for the administrative headquarters and new training facilities. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Frady. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner VanLandingham abstaining.

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Commissioner VanLandingham had a question about 911 Communications. He said he thought it was the second year they had looked at this. He said he felt they should move it up because that was probably one of the most stressful sections that they had in the County. He said it was so hard to get and keep people and he felt they should look at this a little stronger.

Chairman Dunn asked Mark Pullium why did the staff recommend that they not get into the program years. Mr. Pullium said they felt there was enough space in the existing building without adding additional space. He said they felt there were ways to utilize the existing space in the next five years.

Chairman Dunn suggested that verbage be added to explain that there was still unutilized space and that was why they were not included in the program years. Mr. Pullium said they would do that.

Mr. Pullium said the next item to review was Information Systems. He said they were changing this significantly. He said there was a new project for a telecommunications system. He said they explained that this project had been accelerated to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the computer operations throughout the County. He said they recommended it to be moved into FY2007. He said there were two other projects listed in the prior CIP. These were Microsoft Exchange and Storage Area Network projects. He said both of these priced out below \$50,000 so they had been taken out of the CIP and moved into the Capital Budget.

Mr. Pullium said the telecommunication system proposed would be a solution for McDonough Road, the Water System, Public Works and Building and Grounds. He said it would also be an improvement for the Stonewall Complex. He said it would interlink with the system at the Jail and Criminal Justice Center. He said everyone in the County would be using the same technology. He said it would improve efficiency and effectiveness with everyone using the same technology. He said we would not have several different types of technology that you would have to check before finding a problem, which was a labor saving issue.

Mr. Pullium said in regards to Permits and Inspections there was an out year project of \$8,000,000 for a storage facility for records. He said staff felt technology was the solution for this problem and it would be a lot cheaper to use a computer system to store these records. He said this project has been removed completely.

Mr. Pullium said the next item was Recreation. He said the CIP booklet listed the projects for each of the various parks. He said the staff had incorporated all projects that were recommended in the Master Plan. He said in summary the total for the five year span was \$8,546,500.

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Chairman Dunn said the one that concerned him was Kenwood Park. He said last year they had 3 years at \$500,000/year and now staff has put in 6 years at \$500,000/year which is an outgrowth of the plan that the Board approved. He said it was going to be more expensive than \$1.5 million. He said it said \$500,000 a year in the program but that was not the way the money would be spent. He said they did not have the definition yet to say in what year how much was going to be spent. He said this was an attempt to let everyone know there would be about \$3 million for the project.

Mr. Pullium said listed in the document in 2005 for Lake Horton was an additional \$180,000 for park furniture, tot lot, paving of a walking trail, parking ticket machine, and installation of a boating facility. Mr. Cofty said the boating facility was to store the sailboats used for the Special Olympics.

Commissioner Frady asked if the community center was scheduled for 2009. He asked if there was any way to move that up.

Chairman Dunn said it was not in 2009 but was in future years.

Chairman Dunn said he may be in the minority on this but he was not so sure he would ever want a community center up there. Commissioner Wells said she agreed with him. Chairman Dunn said this park was also a drinking source for the County and was suppose to be fairly passive. He said at this point he did not know if he would ever want to vote for that. He said they were already putting pavilions out there and he just did not know if they needed a building. He said he would not say no at this point. He said after the current programs were all done they would have to take a look and see if they really wanted to build a building out there for events in the park. He said he was not convinced now that they needed one but he said that did not mean he could not be convinced later. He asked if it was recommended in the Recreation Plan.

Mr. Pullium responded that it was incorporated in the Recreation Plan.

Chairman Dunn said that was like any plan, some things we were going to do and some things we were not.

Commissioner Frady said he thought the community center would be a great asset.

Chairman Dunn said he could see where people would like it. He said they would have to determine how active they wanted that park to be.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he thought a community use building would be a very good thing. He said it was something that was already needed. He said people leave the County to have events such as wedding receptions and large gatherings.

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Commissioner Frady said this idea had been brought forward several times through the recreation study.

Mr. Pullium said the Roads projects included in the program were 15 local owned projects totaling \$9,500,080; 8 transportation improvement plan projects totaling \$40,213,775; 19 intersection improvements and resurfacing projects totaling \$17,350,00; and 8 long-range regional transportation plan projects totaling \$63,425,855. He said these dollars represented the local Fayette County portion of the funding. He said on some of these there would be funding coming from Federal and/or State that we would be subject to lose if we do not successfully get a SPLOST. He said the total of these 50 projects was \$130,488,855.

Chairman Dunn said it should be pointed out that the only roads shown in this plan were roads that we had to spend local money on. He said Highway 74 was not in here because it was Federal and State money. He said when we had a local match that was required in the TIP it was in here and we have to come up with that money.

Mr. Pullium said in the Sheriff's Office there were two projects listed in the out years as improvements to the firearms training facility and the replacement of obsolete communications equipment. He said staff did not see the need for either one of these projects. He said we have a functional firearms training facility with enhancements that have been made in the last year. He said in addition, the County has just expended \$7 million on a 821 MHz system and they have Nextel phones.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked if they had defined the communications equipment that was obsolete.

Mr. Pullium said they did but they did not ask this year for that to be moved forward.

Chairman Dunn said in the future they may need to upgrade the firearms training facility but not in the next five years.

Commissioner Wells said they may want to use private sector facilities.

Mr. Pullium said in terms of the Tax Assessors' Office there was one project with a total cost of \$188,500 that consisted of a fly-over of the County to have new digitized aerial photographs made to update the GIS system. He said the last time photos were made was in 1999. He said staff had moved this forward from future potential projects to 2006. He said this was in keeping with the County's history of this function.

Mark Pullium said in the Water System was budgeted \$20,242,000 which included Lake McIntosh permitting and construction, water tanks and South Fayette Plant expansion.

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Mr. Cofty said two projects have been completed and taken out.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked why is was requested that projects be moved out one additional year.

Mark Pullium said because they could not get everything done. It was things that were beyond their control. He said because of the conservation methods and the drought, there had not been the demand.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to approve the Capital Improvement Program. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 5-0.

**CAPITAL BUDGET:**

Mark Pullium said changes that had been made were based on the discussions in the M&O Budget. He said as an example in the M&O Budget they wanted to give the Fire Station a generator and now you will see \$29,241 added here as Project No. 8.

Chairman Dunn said they were asking for a brand new generator. It was taken out of the CIP and put here because they were going to fix the generator they had now. Mr. Pullium said they were going to replace the one they have because the one they had now was not fixable. He said the cost was under \$50,000 so it was not going under the CIP.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Capital Budget. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Frady. Motion carried 5-0.

**M&O BUDGET:**

Mark Pullium said in terms of the legal services they had incorporated the dollar amount in the budget for an additional increase for the legal services of McNally, Fox & Grant. The amount would be \$22,000 more.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to ratify the budget for the increase of \$22,000 for the legal services of McNally, Fox & Grant. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 5-0.

Mark Pullium said correspondence had been received from the State Legislature in regards to the cost of living adjustment for all elected officials. He said this has been incorporated into the budget to be effective January 1. The dollar amount would be \$7,000 for all elected officials.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to incorporate the State mandate of the cost of living adjustment for all elected officials. Motion was seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham. Motion carried 5-0.

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Commissioner VanLandingham asked if all the commissioners got a letter from Major Glaze. Everyone said they did. He said he felt obligated to bring this up for discussion. He said he did not know all the legalities, but the claim was that they were certified deputies.

Commissioner Wells said she agreed and thought they should reconsider.

Chairman Dunn said what scared him were people wanted to stay forever and work in the jail and detention officers did not make as much as deputies.

Mark Pullium said based on the previous action from the Board they had moved that from the technical services jail division into contingency.

Motion was made by Commissioner VanLandingham to reinstate the certification of deputies while still at the jail. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Wells. Motion was carried 5-0.

Mr. Pullium said for the record the dollar amount was \$67,926 for the year.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he got a call from Paul Laturno on the Handley Park paving. He said he would ask the Board to revisit the request to repave Handley Park. The amount would be \$46,200. Mr. Pullium said it was in the budget but staff had not recommended it and it was not approved.

Commissioner Wells said she was not interested in revisiting this issue.

Chairman Dunn said he had rethought the issue and came up with the same conclusion as previously discussed.

Commissioner Pfeifer said these requests should be filtered through the Recreation Department and they should be saying what was necessary and what was not.

Commissioner Frady asked Chris Cofty to find out how many people in Fayette County used the Tyrone recreation facilities that lived outside of Tyrone, and how many people outside of Fayette County used the Tyrone recreation facilities.

Motion was made by Commissioner VanLandingham to pave Handley Park. Motion died due to lack of second.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Revenue Budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer. Motion carried 5-0.

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Mark Pullium commented that this budget was structured on the fact that they were going to roll back the reassessments and the growth projected in terms of natural growth provided a 3% factor. He said what they had included was the roll back of millage rates and roll back the increase of assessed values. He said in theory the taxpayers would not pay anymore than they paid in the previous years.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Dunn adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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Peggy Butler, Chief Deputy Clerk

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Gregory M. Dunn, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 1st day of September, 2004.

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Peggy Butler, Chief Deputy Clerk